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Corrective Actions
Federal Facilities

Air Quality
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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Public Notice

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for a Water Pollution Control Permit for the Columbus Salt Marsh Project, a beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for Permit NEV98104 is:

Columbus S.M. LLC
3415 Klamath Woods Place
Concord, CA 94518

The Columbus S.M. Project is located in Esmeralda County, Section 17 of Township 3 North, Range 36 East MDB&M, approximately 7 miles east of State Highway 95 between the town of Mina and Coaldale Junction. The proposed project consists of mining ore from the playa and processing the ore at the site of the historic Argentum Mill that will be modified to meet regulatory requirements. The processing plant will produce a high-grade calcium carbonate product and a "red precipitate" containing concentrated heavy metals that will be disposed pursuant to federal, state and local requirements. The facility will have a maximum production rate of 300 tpd and is planned to operate 24 hours/day, 5 days/week. Chemicals to be used include hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide. Clay tailings will be returned to the playa for partial drying, the process water decanted and recycled and, the mined areas backfilled with unsaturated tailings. Periodically, saline water resulting from the recycling of process water will be directed to an evaporation basin. Facilities are required to be designed, constructed, operated and closed without any discharge or release in excess of those standards established in regulation except for meteorological events which exceed the design storm event.

The Administrator is constrained to issue a water pollution control permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative determination to issue a permit.

Please submit all comments in writing or via email by September 16, 2002 no later than 5:00p.m. to [Bob Carlson](#)